

Soviets Seen Interested in ABM Accord

States Notes Signs Of Desire to Halt Anti-Missile Race

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The State Department guardedly indicated yesterday that the Soviet Union may be interested in heading off a multi-billion-dollar arms race in competing anti-missile systems.

Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin has participated in "several" discussions on that complex and delicate topic with Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Foy D. Kohler, Deputy Under Secretary of State, a spokesman said.

State Department Press Officer Robert J. McCloskey, employing the maximum form of diplomatic circumlocution, said:

"The Department has no reason to believe that the Soviets are not seriously considering the President's expressed interest in halting an ABM arms race."

Informed sources said that this deliberately ambiguous language was intended to show that there appears to be

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Hoover letter to Rusk stated he did not oppose U.S.-Soviet Consular Treaty.
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Soviet interest in the proposal, on the basis of three or four preliminary talks, without pinning down anything on the official record.

Disclosure of the Rusk-Dobrynin discussions was timed to offset increasing publicly-expressed skepticism that the talks can succeed.

Sen. Harry M. Jackson (D-Wash.), a member of both the Armed Services and Joint Atomic Energy Committees, said yesterday the United States should prepare to de-

ploy a limited anti-ballistic missile system if the American-Soviet talks fail.

He called for preparation of a \$5 billion program to guard American intercontinental Minuteman missiles. Jackson said he agrees with the attempt to reach an accord with the Russians, but "I don't see much hope at all" that it will succeed.

"This opens up a can of worms"—with problems of inspection, verification, and a tangle of scientific and political complexities, Jackson said.

Washington Main Site

Washington, rather than Moscow as originally indicated, will be the principal site of continuing American-Soviet probing talks, officials suggested. Llewellyn E. Thompson, who recently returned to Moscow as U.S. Ambassador, replacing Kohler, is awaiting the return there of traveling Soviet leaders to take up the President's proposal.

President Johnson said in his State of the Union message that the United States and the Soviet Union "have the duty to slow down the arms race"—a race that "would impose on our peoples, and on all mankind, an additional waste of resources with no sign in security to either side."

The price tag for a full system of anti-missile defense generally has been put at between \$20 and \$40 billion although some authorities estimate the cost could go to \$70 billion or more with a national air raid shelter program. Even then many experts contend that offense always will hold the advantage over defense.

Multiple Warheads

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara has put the emphasis on improved weapons to penetrate enemy missile defenses, while holding off a decision to deploy an anti-ballistic missile system against either the Soviet Union or Communist China.

The Poseidon strategic missile for submarines is part of this new offense. As confirmed by U.S. officials Thursday, Poseidon is not just one missile carrying one H-bomb—but has several warheads. The

same design will be used on the newest Minuteman ICBM, Minuteman 3, under development.

What has not been revealed by U.S. officials is that some of the new Polaris A-3 submarine missiles also have multiple warheads.

On Monday, debate on the anti-ballistic missile issue will be stepped up when the Senate Armed Services and Appropriations Committees launch their annual military review hearings with McNamara as the first witness.

Enormous Advantage

Jackson expressed his views yesterday first in an appearance with Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) on the NBC "Today" show and later in talks with newsmen.

Proxmire stressed the necessity of striving to reach agreement with the Russians. The United States now has "an enormous advantage over the Russians—4 to 1" in missiles that can hit each other's territory, Proxmire emphasized.

Because of this 4 to 1 edge, many American sources doubt the Russians would ever agree simply to forego deploying a full anti-missile system. For balance, these sources say, there would have to be, additionally, some agreement akin to the "freeze" and "cutback" proposals for missilery that the United States supports.

Defense-Minded

So far the Russians, historically very defense-minded and very secretive about their defenses, never have agreed to expose their defense system to any real bargaining. Just this week, one Russian magazine, Za Rubezhom, openly attacked President Johnson's proposal.

Jackson said he agrees with McNamara on the logic of making American missiles "more survivable and penetrable." But despite what the United States does, Jackson said, if the Soviet Union believes that the present anti-missile system it has deployed around Moscow should be extended into a nationwide system, and that it would be assurance against American attack, that would create a "very unstable situation in the world."

The 4 to 1 missile advantage

that the United States now holds, Jackson said, is "going down fairly rapidly." The Soviets, he said, "have just made enormous progress in the last 24 months, putting in place a substantial number of sophisticated missiles."

In addition, Jackson said, China now has the "capability" to deploy medium range missiles, and by "the early 1970s"—earlier than expected—will have "capability" to deploy intercontinental missiles.